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Irreplaceable professor returns; it is teaching at University of Montana he loves

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NEWS

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SUNDAY MAGAZINES, December 25, 1966

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12-19-66

In 41st Teaching Year

IRREPLACABLE PROFESSOR RETURNS;
IT IS TEACHING AT UM HE LOVES

A familiar face on the University of Montana campus for 39 years has returned on a regular basis after five conspicuous years of absence as "retired."

Dr. J. E. "Burly" Miller is once again a full-time history professor. His return pleased Dr. Melvin C. Wren, chairman of the UM history department, who called Dr. Miller "a superb teacher; we are thrilled to have him back."

This is not the only return of the prodigal professor, for Burly was on the campus in the fall of 1965 as a visiting lecturer. "Visiting" is hardly the word for Miller's return then. He had taught at UM for 38 years prior to his mandatory retirement at the age of 70.

-QUICK TO REENLIST-

The University was quick to reenlist its old hand when the 1965 legislature adjusted the mandatory retirement rule by permitting any person reaching the 70 mandatory rule to be rehired on an annual basis.

This year he is teaching full-time, if tutoring 107 students in two large lecture classes can be called full-time.

Actually, Dr. Miller's full-time status is qualified to a certain extent. The 1965 Legislature stipulated teachers in the "70 years or over" age bracket could not assume classroom duties during the winter quarter.

(MORE)

IRREPLACABLE PROFESSOR

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-IRREPLACABLE-

Burly's sophistication in English History coupled with the esteem in which he is held on campus and among alumni, not to mention his years of experience, make it virtually impossible to replace him.

He is the only living person to have a building on the Missoula campus named in his honor and his return to full-time status seems only natural.

-VERSATILE MAN-

He is a versatile man having held four "full-time" positions simultaneously in the years of his tenure at the University. The positions include chairman of the division of political science, head of the department of history and political science, faculty representative to the Pacific Athletic Conference and dean of men 20 years to the day, serving from Jan. 2, 1928 to Jan. 2, 1948.

Miller's credentials are such that he could have taken root at nearly any University. He holds a B.A. from Kansas University, 1910; LL.B. K.U., 1912; M.A. in history, University of Illinois, 1913; and a Ph.D., U.I., 1917.

He taught at Illinois for a year before coming to Montana. After a year in Missoula, He went east for a year at the University of Pittsburgh. He finally returned to Montana and has remained to his 44th year as a college teacher, 41 at Montana.